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ABSTRACT

This study examined the form and availability of alternative education programs in suburban Cook County, Illinois, public secondary schools. Alternative education was defined as any special program that is directed to specific academic, emotional, and/or work training needs of students. A survey was submitted to school districts to gather information on types of programs available and the number of students and teachers involved. Thirty-seven percent of the school districts reported having alternative programs implemented during the school day, 60% reported implementing evening alternative programs, 82% reported offering programs for pregnant students, and 67% had programs for expelled students. A general summary of program characteristics and policies is included in the report as well as a table that summarizes, district by district, the types of programs offered, and briefly describes the individual characteristics of each program. The survey instrument is appended. (Author/MK)

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RESEARCH REPORT

1979-1980

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION REPORT

#3202

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ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION REPORT
SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS
1979-80

DEFINITION

Alternative education may be any special program that is directed to specific needs of students. Many of these special programs, in addition to meeting academic needs, also provide emotional support and work training.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This study examines the form and availability of alternative education programs in the Cook County public secondary schools. It makes this information available to educational administrators, teachers, school boards, and the general public.

SOURCE OF DATA

The Department of Research and Statistics of the Educational Service Region of Cook County submitted a survey to all Cook County suburban high school districts requesting detailed information on the number of students and teachers involved in alternative education programs, as well as identifying the type of programs (see Appendix A for actual survey submitted).

SUMMARY OBSERVATIONS

There are twenty-seven secondary school districts and one unit district in surburban Cook County, with a total 1979-80 enrollment of 139,353 students. Since each high school district serves a unique student population, each high school district has a program unique to its student population. Twenty-three (85%), of the twenty-seven

reporting suburban high school districts, offer an alternative education program.

Alternative Programs Implemented During Regular School Day

Ten districts (37%) offer alternative programs during the regular school day. The various day programs, with several different orientations, are known as; Sunshine School, Off Campus Learning, Resource Program, School Program Addressing Non-Attendance, Ridgewood, Elmwood Park, and Leyden Learning Center, Family Adjustment School, Opportunity Adjustment Program, and Action Learning Center.

In addition to the above-mentioned day programs, Table I provides a listing of career-oriented programs available in school districts, the number of districts having each of these programs, the number of students enrolled in a career training program, and the number of teachers involved.

Evening Alternative Programs

Sixteen districts (60%) offer alternative programs in the evening. The various evening programs, with several different orientations, are known as: Evening High School, Night High School, Young Adult Education Program, Glenbrook Evening High School, Limited High School, Continuing Education, Adult Education, Alternative Education, Evening Credit High School, and Alternative School Programs.

Fourteen (52%), of the twenty-four districts responding to the question on offering an evening high school program for credit, responded affirmatively. In these fourteen districts, the evening programs have registered 1,374 male students, 980 female students, 216 teachers, and 16 administrators for the 1979-80 school year.

Eighteen (67%) of the districts indicated a typical high school dropout can receive a standard district diploma through an evening program.

Special Programs for Pregnant Students

Twenty-two (82%)school districts offer an alternative education program for pregnant students: eighteen provide home tutoring, nine offer night school programs, three arrange for correspondence courses, three provide special day school programs, and three have pregnant girls remain in regular classes.

Programs for Expelled Students

Eighteen (67%) school districts offer an alternative education program for expelled students: eleven provide alternative evening schooling (regular program, limited programs, or separate programs); five encourage enrollment in correspondence courses; five provide a day alternative program; two offer tutoring; two extensions services; one home study; and one a student therapeutic program.

General Educational Development

Fifty-four percent of the districts would support legislation lowering the General Educational Development (GED) testing age requirement from 19 years of age to 18 years of age. However, none of the districts in the north/northwest would support such legislation.

CAREER - ORIENTED

PROGRAMS OFFERED IN REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUMS

TABLE I

	YES	NO	NUMBER STUDENTS	NUMBER TEACHERS
1. Cooperative Work Training (C.W.T.)	19		1832	53
2. Distributive Education (D.E.)	21		1575	45
3. Diversified Occupations (D.O.)	16		1557	42
4. Home Economics Related (H.E.R.O.)	18		1288	49
5. Office Occupations (O.O.)	22		1136	44
6. Work Experiences Career Ed. (W.E.C.E.P.)	8		573	15
7. (I.C.E.)	2		285	10
8. Health Education Related (H.E.P.)	5		203	4
9. Others	12		1211	49
TOTALS	123		9660	311

OTHERS

a. C.W.S.
b. S.E.C.W.S.
c. S.E.W.E.
d. F.O.
e. C.D.O.
f. C.C.O.
g. C.E.T.A.
h. O.S.R.
i. D.C.E.S.
j. F.S.
k. D.E.O.
l. Interrelated Cooperative Education
m.. Related Work Experience
n. Cosmetology
o. Special Education
p. Industrial Education
q. Community Experience
r. Applied Biological Science
s. Pre-Vocational Special Education

Alternative Education Program Specifics

Fifty percent of the school districts shared their Alternative Education Programs and policies. The following is a summary of these reports:

Student characteristics leading to placement in an alternative program

a. behavior problems - 50%
   --included social-emotional learning needs, disruptive behavior (overt), extremely objectionable, chronic/severe
b. truancy - 14%
c. have not been successful in regular school setting - 14%
d. potential dropouts - 29%

Courses offered

a. all required for graduation - 57%
b. multi-level subjects - math, reading, current events, P.E., English, social studies, seminars
c. basic and occupational (to include qualifications for employment and responsibility as citizens)

Credits given

a. similar to regular school - 29%
b. 1/8 - ½ unit per semester
   ½ credit per course per semester
   3-4 academic credits per semester
   5 credits during regular school year, 1 credit during summer, and ½ credit per semester for work experience

Hours in session

a. 6:30-9:30 p.m. M-TH
b. 2:30-5:30 p.m. M-Th
c. 9:00a.m.-1:00 p.m. M-F
d. 4-5 hours per day M-F
e. 5 hours per day M-F
f. 3 hours per night, one night per week

Absences

a. one unexcused absence - Parent Conference
   two absences - may be withdrawn
b. no excused/unexcused - may be dropped after three absences or six tardies, or combination thereof
c. no excused/unexcused - may be dropped after missing two meetings (4 tardies) per subject, per semester
   more - forfeit right to continue
d. must attend minimum of 85% of time to pass

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

DIST.	STUDENT ENROLL-MENT	NAME	STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS	COURSES	CREDITS	HOURS IN SESSION	ABSENCES	OPPOR-TUNITY GIVEN
201	5,963	SPAN	Truants – under age 16	English, Math, Reading, Current events & P.E.	@ Semester @ Course 1/8-½ unit	M-TH. 2:30-5:30 p.m.	1-parent conference 2-May be withdrawn	But once
202	4,187	Evening High School	16-21	All subjects & requirements necessary for graduation	Max.-4 courses, similar to regular school	1-night @ week M-TH. 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	no excused/ unexcused may be dropped after 3 absence or 6 tardies or combination thereof	may transfer back to day school
200	4,044	Evening Diploma Program	At least 16-regular day student must be in 7th semester over 21- with permission		Max. of 7 credits @ semester	6:30-9:30 p.m. 1 night @ week @semester @ course		
206	5,125	O.A.P. C.O.P.E.	Unable to adjust to normal school environment. (overt, disruptive, & extremely objectionable behavior) chronic truancy Pregnant girls, grade 9-12	Courses needed for graduation & pre/post natal.		4-5 hours @ day		

DIST.	STUDENT ENROLLMENT	NAME	STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS	COURSES	CREDITS	HOURS IN SESSION	ABSENCES	OPPORTUNITY GIVEN
215	3,800	Educational Adjustment School	Objectionable or disruptive behavior	Social-Studies Math, English, E.A.S. Seminar	3-4 academic credits @ semester	9:00-1:00 p.m.	Must attend minimun of 85% to pass	Primary goal of program is orderly return of @ student to regular high school
214	18,811	Young Adult Education Program	17 yr. old minimum-either work during day or in volunteer service	All courses required for graduation	5-credits regular school yr. 1-credit summer ½-credit @ semester work	6;30-9:30 p.m. M-TH.		
218	7,346	Adult Education Night School	Completion of 10th grade Schooling interrupted	Basic occupational to include qualification for employment & responsibility as citizens				
219	5,950	Action Learning Center	Sophomore or higher-does not require Special Education Services not provided by ALC-prefers to work alone, with with adults prefers experiential learning	All areas		Regular day		

DIST.	STUDENT ENROLL-MENT	NAME	STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS	COURSES	CREDITS	HOURS IN SESSION	ABSENCES	OPPOR-TUNITY GIVEN
229	2,718	Evening Credit High School	Have not been successful in regular day-school setting					
230	6,286		Behavior/drug problem, Dropouts-21 maximum age-out of school for two consecutive semesters	Multi-level subjects	½ credit @ course @ semester	3 hrs. @ night 1 night @ week		fifth yr. student needing two or less credits
211	11,944	Off Campus Learning Resource Program	Chronic and/or severe behavior problem	All courses required for graduation			school age	+ Supplementary education programs for pregnant high schl. girls & parent
212	4,262			Each student's academic program fulfills the requirements of his/her home high school for a high schl. diploma	Regular	5 hours		
234	1,264	REAL	Behavior problem & Social-emotional learning needs Potential dropouts					
401	1,055							

DIST.	STUDENT ENROLL-MENT	NAME	STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS	COURSES	CREDITS	HOURS IN SESSION	ABSENCES	OPPOR-TUNITY GIVEN
220	2,706	Alternative Education Program		Attempt to meet class standards that are provided in regular programs			Tardiness-½ period no excused 2 meetings @ subject @ semester allowed more-forfeit right to continue	

SURVEY OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Name of District: _____

Superintendent: _____
(signature)

Date: _____

1. Does your school district offer an alternative education program for students removed from the regular school rolls? YES ___ NO ___

If yes:

What type of alternative program is offered? (Include separately, a brief description of your goals, objectives, philosophy, etc. This may be a report presented to your Board of Education, or other printed material relevant to the program).

Our alternative program is offered:	Please check, if appropriate	Name of Program
during the regular school day	_____	_____
at night	_____	_____
other (please specify) _____		

2. Do you offer an evening high school program for credit to individuals from ages 16-18? YES ___ NO ___

If yes:

Number of boys in evening high school? _____
Number of girls in evening high school? _____
Number of teachers in evening high school? _____
Number of administrators in evening high school? _____

3. Can a regular high school drop-out receive a standard district diploma through an evening program? YES ___ NO ___

Other: _____
_____

4. What type of alternative program (s) are available for: (Please provide a prepared statement, if available).

A. Expelled students _____

B. Pregnant girls _____

5. What type of credit per semester is granted for "On the Job" Work Experience in your evening alternative education program?

¼ credit _____ ½ credit _____ 1 credit _____

Other (please specify)_____

6. Would your school district support legislation lowering the General Educational Development (G.E.D.) testing age requirement from 19 years of age to 18 years of age? YES ____ NO ____

7. Which of the following programs are offered in your regular high school curriculum?

	YES	NO	NUMBER STUDENTS	NUMBER TEACHERS
A. Diversified Occupations (D.O.)				
B. Distributive Education (D.E.)				
C. Office Occupations (O.O.)				
D. Home Economics Related (H.E.R.C.)				
E. Cooperative Work Training (C.W.T.)				
F. Work Experiences Career Ed. (W.E.C.E.P.)				
G. Health Education Related (H.E.P.)				
H. Neighborhood Youth Corp. (N.Y.C.)				
I. Cooperative Work Agreement(C.W.A.)				
J. Other (please specify)				

_____

_____

_____

Please return the completed survey by January 24, 1980 to:

Richard J. Martwick, Superintendent
Educational Service Region of Cook County
33 West Grand Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60610

#3202 (03/80)